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Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Permit by Rule Standards, Section 16, Activities in Coastal Dunes, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, the above-named major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1 Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 305: Permit by Rule Standards, Section 16, Activities in Coastal Dunes, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2A, is authorized if the rule is amended as follows:

1. A definition of "cobble" is added to mean a rock that is smaller than a boulder and larger than gravel;
2. A definition of "cobble-trapping fence" is added to mean an open fence with a continuous porosity equal to or greater than 50% that is designed to prevent cobbles from passing through it;
3. The provision in the provisionally adopted rule allowing a cobble-trapping fence to be in place only between October 1st and April 1st is removed and replaced with a provision allowing a cobble-trapping fence to be in place year-round;
4. A provision is added allowing a cobble-trapping fence only if it is landward of an existing seawall in a developed area; and
5. The requirement in the provisionally adopted rule that a cobble-trapping fence must be placed no more than 15 feet in front of the building is removed.

The Department of Environmental Protection is not required to hold hearings or conduct other formal proceedings prior to finally adopting the rule in accordance with this resolve.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.